

Dear Interested Party,

Starting April 29, 2008, we began the public scoping process for the proposed Boorman Peak Timber Sale located in Section 16, T28N, R23W (Boorman Peak Section) approximately 10 air miles west of Kalispell, Montana. We received one comment during the initial 30-day scoping period.

Initial project objectives were to:

- 1) Sell timber to generate revenue for the Common School Trust and contribute to the sustainable yield for the DNRC.
- 2) Use silvicultural treatments that emulate natural disturbance patterns and processes to promote biologically diverse and healthy forests.

Since the scoping period, we have been conducting timber stand surveys to determine the potential volume of the section, conducting field reconnaissance for possible road locations, as well as assessing any issues related to wildlife, hydrology, and soils. Through our surveys, we have learned that the section contains approximately 600 acres of old growth that meet definitions developed by Green et al. (1992). DNRC uses the Green et al. definitions to define old growth, which refers to stands that meet or exceed minimal thresholds of numbers, ages and sizes of large trees.

The stands in this section are becoming dominated by sub-alpine fir, and are losing their western larch and Douglas-fir components through mortality brought about by advanced stand age and blow down. Few western larch or Douglas-fir seedlings and saplings occur in these stands. This section is surrounded by Plum Creek land that has been harvested in the past 20 years, which is in different stages of successional development.

We are in the midst of developing silvicultural prescriptions for this project. Prescriptions being considered at this time include old growth maintenance, commercial thinning, and seed tree harvest types to address various biodiversity objectives and silvicultural needs in the section. Old growth maintenance treatments would retain large old trees, target the removal of shade-tolerant species, and create canopy gaps large enough to encourage regeneration of shade-intolerant tree species. In some cases, old growth stands experiencing high levels of mortality in large trees that would likely cause the stand to no longer be defined as old growth in the very near term (less than 5 years) may be considered as candidates for old growth removal treatments. Removal would include treatments such as seed tree harvest to promote regeneration of western larch and Douglas-fir seedlings.

As we continue to design harvest units, we will be incorporating wildlife mitigations including buffering heavily used wildlife corridors. Some of the stands in this section will require winter logging to minimize soil compaction. We plan on completing the environmental analysis this

winter, and if an action alternative is selected, we would begin the field work portion of marking the harvest units in May or June 2009.

Given this new information, we would like to re-open the comment period for another 30 days or until October 24, 2008. We welcome comments on this new development and are happy to answer any questions and reply to any concerns. Please feel free to send comments and concerns to Mark Slaten (contact information is below).

We would be happy to take interested individuals out to the section to view the existing conditions and talk about potential treatments. Please feel free to contact me any time regarding this proposed timber sale project. Thank you for your interest and concern in the management of forested trust lands.

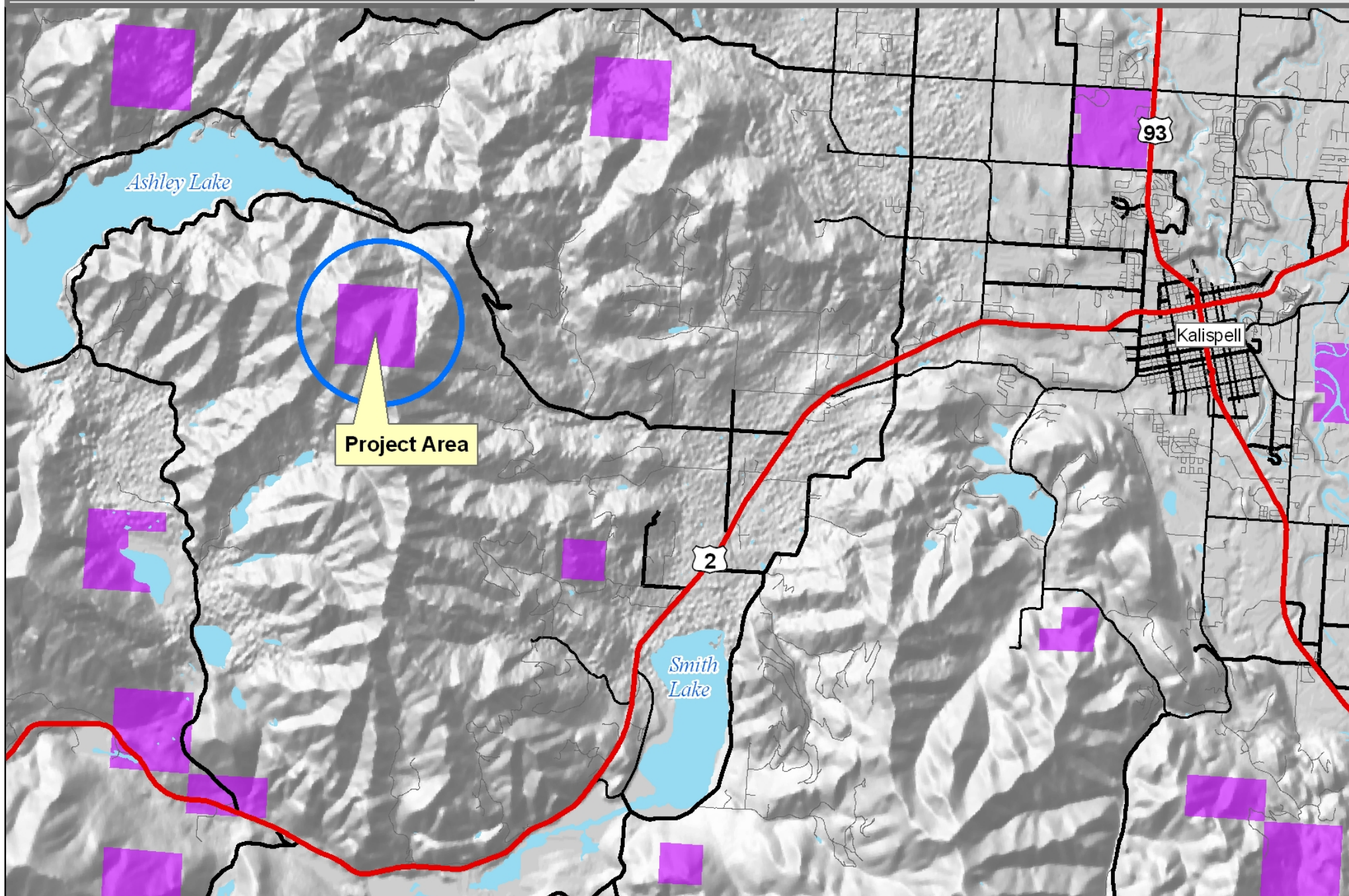
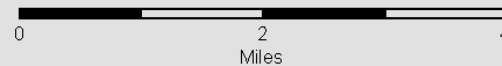
Sincerely,

Mark Slaten
Project Leader
Montana DNRC
2250 Hwy 93N
Kalispell, MT 59901
406-751-2264

Boorman Peak T.S.

Scoping Vicinity Map

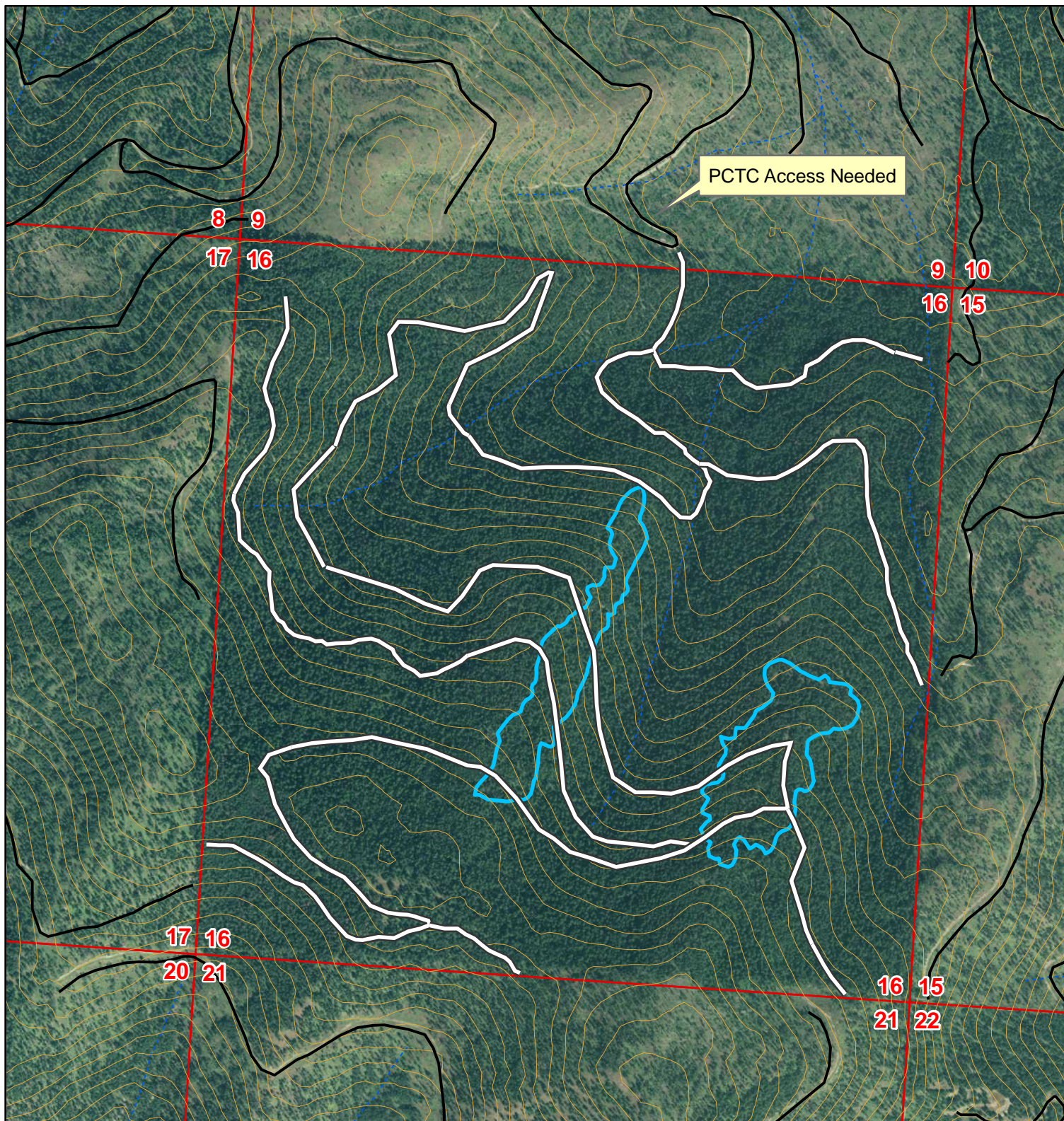
T28N - R23W - Section 16



Boorman Peak T.S.

T28N - R23W Sec 16

FY 09



- Possible Road Location
- Not Old-growth



0 1,000 2,000
Feet